

Funded by: Big Lottery (UK)

Target areas: Androy region

Beneficiaries: 28,625 direct beneficiaries (more estimated as families share sorghum seed on an informal basis with extended family)



The project was launched in December 2005 to address the need to increase food security and create livelihoods, whilst also promoting improved natural resource management at local level. The project has set up and worked with farming associations to reintroduce sorghum as a main crop, educating and enabling families to grow and use seed varieties that are drought resistant and that can provide fodder and fuel, as well as food.

Other important components of the project have included; tree planting at family level to help secure formal land tenure and to provide fruit produce for families; the launch of a commercial plantation to help stabilise poor soil areas, and provide employment and food produce; HIV AIDS awareness radio programming and activities.

The project's success attracted the interest of the Ministry of Agriculture and the team were asked to provide training for government field agents to implement sorghum reintroduction as part of the National 'Green Revolution'. The Regional Authorities also requested that the project extend into new communes, which helped to secure funding for a second phase, Apemba Soa.

Summary outputs

- 1500 people given access to improved sorghum seed
- 335 women trained in nutritional techniques around sorghum
- 92 tons of sorghum seed produced
- 425 more fuel efficient stoves built
- 23,111 trees sold/distributed via the ALT tree nursery
- 1000 local plantation workers employed
- 12 hectares of castor bean, cashew and coconut trees planted up
- 4,000 castor plants harvested by the end of project (May 09)
- 12 sorghum festivals organised
- 176 radio programmes produced
- 620 beneficiaries of HIV training events
- 53% higher average food consumption for beneficiary families during hunger gap.

Additional partnerships and activity

- Radio HIV campaign (see Project Radio SIDA)
- Training for regional partners in sorghum distribution
- Regional TV showings of sorghum festivals
- Launch of Vorono Kodoho commercial plantation
- Communities and staff also participated in ALT Project HEPA